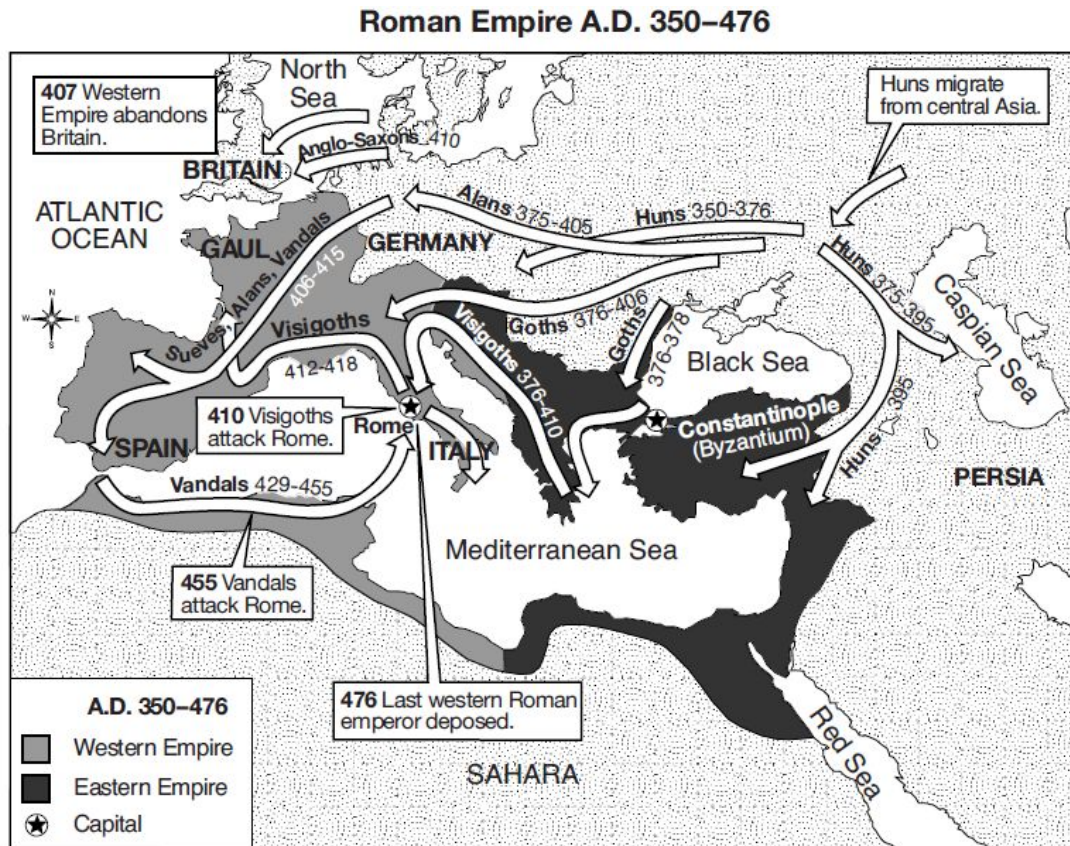


Focus Question: Why Should I Care?

Document #1: Map of the Invasions of the Roman Empire, 350-476 CE



Source: *The Nystrom Atlas of World History*, Herff Jones Education Division (adapted)

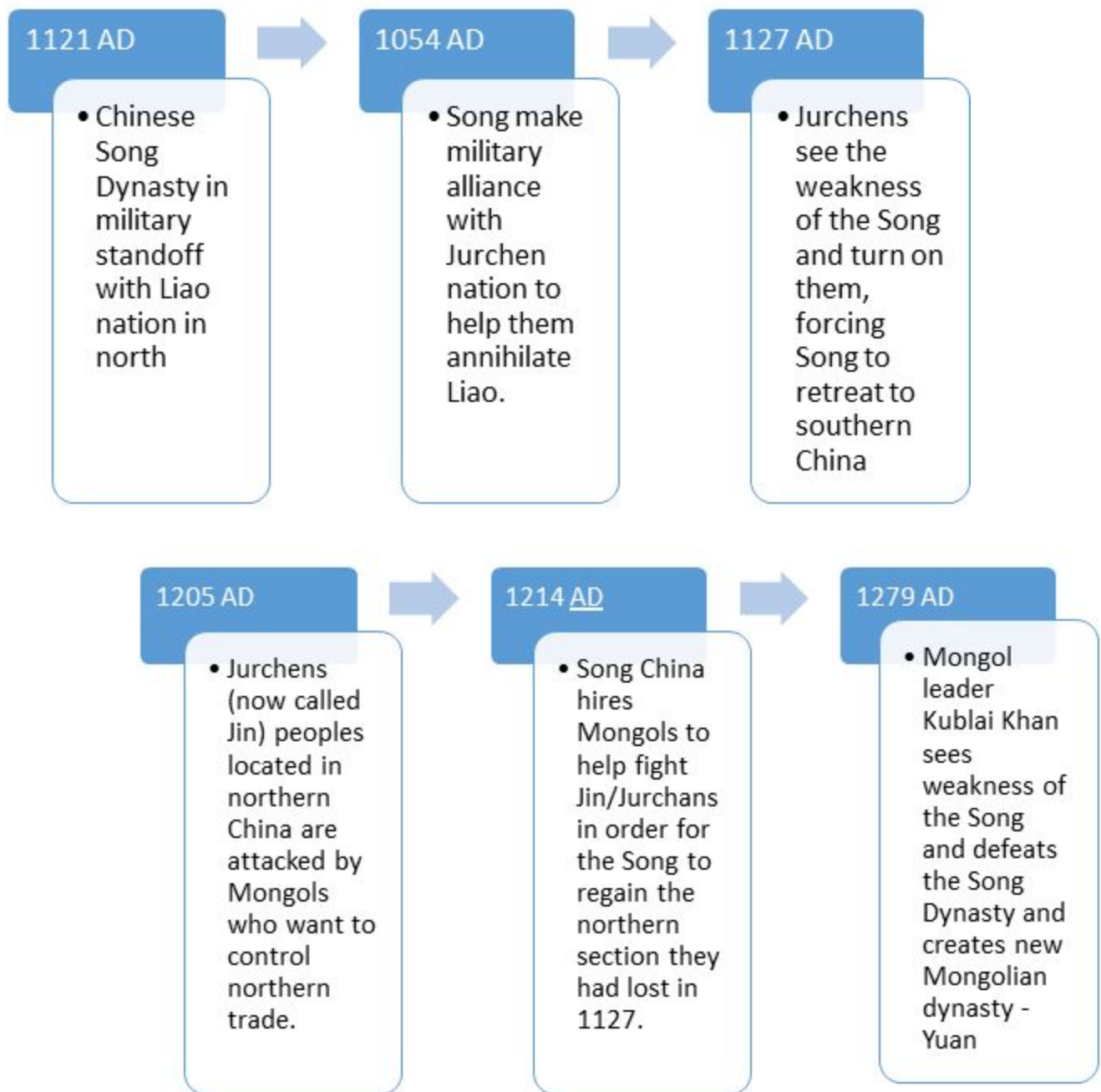
Focus Question: Why Should I Care?

Document #2:



Focus Question: Why Should I Care?

Document #3: Timeline of Collapse of Song China



Focus Question: Why Should I Care?

Document # 4: Michael Grant, *The Fall of the Roman Empire: A Reappraisal*, Crown Publishing, 1982.

There can be little doubt that the weakness of the late Roman army were largely due to the eventual failure ... to enforce regular conscription [draft of soldiers] ... The exempted categories were ... numerous. Hosts of senators, bureaucrats, and clergymen were entitled to avoid the draft; and among other groups who escaped were cooks, bakers, and slaves.



Create Initial Theory Now

Based on these documents and the answers to the Yes/No questions

Why Should I Care?

Focus Question: Why Should I Care?

Document #5: *The Prince, A Guide to Rule* by Machiavelli, 1532.

CHAPTER XII

How Many Kinds Of Soldiery There Are, And Concerning Mercenaries

We have seen above how necessary it is for a prince to have his foundations well laid, otherwise it follows of necessity he will go to ruin. The chief foundations of all states, new as well as old or composite, are good laws and good arms; and as there cannot be good laws where the state is not well armed I say, therefore, that the arms with which a prince defends his state are either his own, or they are mercenaries, auxiliaries, or mixed. Mercenaries and auxiliaries are useless and dangerous; and if one holds his state based on these arms, he will stand neither firm nor safe; for they are disunited, ambitious and without discipline, unfaithful, valiant before friends, cowardly before enemies; they have neither the fear of God nor fidelity to men, and destruction is deferred only so long as the attack is; for in peace one is robbed by them, and in war by the enemy. The fact is, they have no other attraction or reason for keeping the field than a trifle of stipend, which is not sufficient to make them willing to die for you. They are ready enough to be your soldiers whilst you do not make war, but if war comes they take themselves off or run from the foe; which I should have little trouble to prove, for the ruin of Italy has been caused by nothing else than by resting all her hopes for many years on mercenaries, and although they formerly made some display and appeared valiant amongst themselves, yet when the foreigners came they showed what they were.

Focus Question: Why Should I Care?

Document #6: excerpt from *Rome's Barbarian Mercenaries* by David Frye, 2007 historynet.com

During the third century, the empire experienced a series of invasions and civil wars. These crises intensified Rome's dependence on uncivilized and, increasingly, foreign troops. The late third- and early fourth-century emperors Diocletian and Constantine essentially remade the army, doubling its size.... The army now swelled to some six hundred thousand men, which created severe recruitment pressures. To fill its ranks, the late Roman army resorted to unprecedented measures. ... Foreigners served in record numbers. Some were drawn from defeated barbarian groups that had been settled as subject peoples on Roman lands. ...In the fourth century, huge numbers of Germans enlisted, and many of them attained high rank. The army itself—once the most powerful Romanizing force in the world—was rapidly becoming Germanized by its own recruits. German terminology and even German customs—such as *the barritus*, the old German battle cry—became widespread. Contemporary writers used the terms *barbarus* (barbarian) and *miles* (soldier) interchangeably.

The transition from a citizen's army to a very nearly mercenary one did not go smoothly. To many Romans, the same barbarians so admired for their military prowess were also the enemy. Since the early third century, the empire had been locked in a violent and essentially continuous struggle against barbarian raiders. Rome's citizens, especially in the frontier provinces, had seen cities burned by barbarians. They had seen their fields pillaged, their treasures plundered, and their neighbors killed. If they felt a certain distrust of barbarian/mercenary soldiers, they came by it naturally.

Focus Question: Why Should I Care?

Document #7: ***Inside Erik Prince's secret proposal to outsource the war in Afghanistan***
by Josh Rogan, August 9, 2017 (edited for space)

Businessman and Blackwater founder Erik Prince has been shopping around Washington a detailed proposal for replacing thousands of American soldiers in Afghanistan with contractors from foreign countries led by a "viceroy" with almost unfettered power over U.S. military and diplomatic policy.... Prince's plan is opposed (not supported) by senior military leaders including national security advisers and key lawmakers who have received Prince's paper and senior military officials who have fought in Afghanistan over the past 16 years.

Prince has described the proposal in interviews this week as a plan to send 5,500 private military contractors to embed with Afghan National Security Forces units at the battalion level to fight the Taliban, supported by a 90-plane private air force. Prince presents the plan as an alternative for President Trump to the proposal put forth by his top commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John Nicholson, who has publicly called for a "few thousand" more U.S. troops to be added to the approximately 8,200 U.S. soldiers there now.

"It's something that would come from a bad soldier of fortune novel," said Senator Graham (R-S.C.) who met with Prince about the proposal. "I trust our generals, I don't trust contractors to make our national security policy decisions," said Graham. "It sends the wrong message about the importance of Afghanistan to the United States. The last thing in the world we want to do is contract out our homeland security."

Several officials briefed on the plan told me that Prince's idea, while possibly appealing on the surface, is problematic for a number of reasons. First, according to the Pentagon, the United States is prohibited by law and policy from employing contractors in a military combat role.

A former senior commander in Afghanistan told me that while contractors are fine for logistics, training, site security and medical services, placing them on the front lines of the battle with the Taliban would be a huge mistake.

"Contracting out engagement with the enemy — hiring mercenaries for offensive operations normally restricted to uniformed military members — strikes me as misguided and dangerous," the former military commander said. "We have repeatedly seen the shortcomings of mercenary forces, and those contemplating this course of action should revisit that history."

There are signs, however, that Trump is open to the idea. For one, Trump disparaged his own generals, including Nicholson, in a July meeting. He sees this as a major cost saving device for the military.



Draft Final Theory Now

Based on these documents and the answers to the Yes/No questions

Why Should I Care?